Selected Online and Print Resources for Academic Writers

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Online Resources for Academic Writers

Translating dictionaries

French<->English
https://www.larousse.com/en/dictionnaires/francais-anglais
Some students have recommended this easy-to-use site by the classic French dictionary maker. The English entries include pronunciation of the words.

German <-> English
Wörterbuch: German <->English Dictionary
www.woerterbuch.info
This online dictionary with a very user-friendly interface gives translations, (numerous) synonyms, and American pronunciation.

dict.cc:
https://start.dict.cc/
This online dictionary with a user-friendly interface gives translations and offers terminology lists from many fields. With a built-in vocabulary trainer, users can make their own vocabulary lists.

Monolingual English dictionaries

Merriam-Webster
https://www.m-w.com
The Merriam-Webster's (American) online references, including different types of dictionaries (including a medical dictionary), a thesaurus, and an encyclopedia, are easy to use.

Dictionary.com
https://dictionary.reference.com
An easy-to-use and practical dictionary

Multilingual dictionaries

bab.la
https://bab.la/
This online dictionary for 28 languages also includes conjugations, quizzes, games, and forums.

DeepL
https://www.deepl.com/translator
Developed by Linguee, this is one of the best sites for machine translation in that it provides alternatives, grammar information, etc. about items being investigated. Several scholars have recommended the paid premium version because it deletes texts once they have been translated to assure confidentiality.

Lexilogos
https://www.lexilogos.com/
This French-based site is "a comprehensive set of resources for the study of the languages of the world" that contains dictionaries (paired only with English) in all languages as well as alphabets for all languages.

Linguee
www.linguee.com
This language resource incorporates features of a translating dictionary, thesaurus, and corpus bank. This advantage makes it a frequent resource choice for an increasing number of those working in a multilingual environment. One drawback is that the examples have not been checked for their quality.

Wiktionary
https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/differ
Wikipedia has been developing this free collaborative multilingual online dictionary since 2002. It is available in more than 150 languages and offers a substantial amount of information to help users understand words, terms, and phrases better. A participant highly recommended the site but apart from definitions, its information is not oriented to scientific writing.

WordReference
https://www.wordreference.com
This site encompasses dictionaries for eighteen languages and their various combinations. It offers direct links to dictionaries and allows users to work with various tools. The site also offers language forums and claims to be the world's largest repository of knowledge and advice about English and several other languages.

Dictionary of Mathematical English Usage
https://www.univie.ac.at/EMIS/monographs/Trzeciak/
This site is organized by the Polish mathematician Jerzy Trzeciak as a glossary, with each word illustrated by sentences from technical publications to show ways to combine words with formulas effectively in technical discussions.

Thesauri – collections of synonyms for frequently-used words or terms
Thesaurus
https://thesaurus.com
This easy-to-use part of a package of online language reference services, including a dictionary and encyclopedia, is Roget's New Millenium ™ Thesaurus.

Thinkmap Visual Thesaurus
https://www.visualthesaurus.com/
This site is aimed at visual thinkers and produces a kind of word map. A limited number of trials before purchase is offered, so it can be tried before buying it.

The Free Thesaurus
https://freethesaurus.com
This site includes much additional information, such as synonyms, antonyms, and related words.

Terminology lists
Inter-Active Terminology for Europe (IATE)
iate.europa.eu
Inter-Active Terminology for Europe (IATE) is the EU inter-institutional terminology database aimed at enhancing the availability and standardization of this information. IATE incorporates all existing terminology databases of the EU's translation services into a single new, highly interactive, and accessible inter-institutional database.

United Nations Terminology Database
https://unterm.un.org/UNTERM/portal/welcome
This may be of help when working with specific terminology that needs to be coordinated closely with translations into other languages. "UNTERM is a multilingual terminology

database maintained jointly by the main duty stations and regional commissions of the United Nations system."

Official Swiss multilingual specialist dictionary
(German, French, Italian, Romansh, and English)
https://www.termdat.bk.admin.ch/Search/Search
A site well worth exploring

English as a lingua franca

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_as_a_lingua_franca
'Lingua franca English' is a variety of English used between two people, at least one of whom is not a native speaker of English. It is increasingly used in the publications of some disciplines. Wikipedia offers an overview of its use in everyday communication but not necessarily in scientific publications.

Grammar and style

Purdue University - Online writing lab (OWL)
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/ - general site
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/english_as_a_second_language/esl_instructors_tutors/esl_instructors_and_students.html - site for English non-natives
This pioneering website is still highly acclaimed. It provides a whole family of linked sites giving information about standard style guides, writing, research, and grammar and includes well over a hundred handouts.

Grammarly.com
https:// www.grammarly.com
Contains 250 grammar points, a grammar checker made by professional linguists and, in the paid version, a very good plagiarism checker. A few writers have found it questionable whether the paid version provides substantially better language feedback than the free version.

Advice and resources for academic writers

Advice on research and writing
https://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/user/mleone/web/how-to.html
A selection of links on many aspects of doing research in the natural sciences

Academic Writing for British English
hull-awe.org.uk
A basic site still being developed in the UK that includes short 'courses' and about two hundred suggestions or items of information

Advice on writing
https://writingcommons.org/
This site considers itself an encyclopedia for writers by offering more than 800 original articles for writers. Well worth exploring
Software corrections and comments on author's own text
http://writingtools.xjtlu.edu.cn:8080/mm/markingmate.html
This standard version of Marking Mate allows authors to enter part or all of their manuscript and have it proofread with explanatory comments by software.

Author and reviewer tutorials
https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials
The scientific publisher Springer offers tutorials in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and an Asian language to help non-native English researchers design, write, and publish their research in English.

EASE guidelines for authors and translators of scientific articles
https://ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines-authors-and-translators/
The European Association of Science Editors updates these guidelines when necessary.
They are free, available in a number of languages, and downloadable as a pdf.

Language and learning online
https://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/
Comprehensive Australia-based site giving support for graduate research students

Re-imagining Doctoral Writing
https://wac.colostate.edu/docs/books/doctoral/writing.pdf
*Doctoral education is undergoing a thorough-going transformation in this 21ˢᵗ century, which
the diverse authors of this edited collection attempt to address. The texts (available in pdf
and ePub formats) present a welcome overview to the issues facing doctoral writers and
their supporters. Digitally published 2021 by WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum)*

Reporting Guidelines
https://www.equator-network.org
*The Equator Network "seeks to improve the reliability and value of published health research
literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting and wider use of robust reporting
guidelines." Well worth exploring, regardless of your field of research.*

Vocabulary

Collocations Dictionary online
www.ozdic.com
*This website recommended by former participants offers straightforward access to words
usually used together (collocations) and is especially helpful when choosing prepositions.*

Collocations
www.freecollocation.com
*A dictionary with word collocation that helps advanced learners effectively study, write and
speak natural-sounding English.*

Vocabulary.com
This website provides definitions as well as the actual use of words in their context.

Prepositions
https://lingohelp.me
*A website that provides the information needed to find the correct preposition after
adjectives, nouns, and verbs.*

Academic Phrasebank
www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/
An extensive language resource that is easy to use and practical

British National Corpus
http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/ or https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/
*A 100-million-word collection of samples of spoken and written language that may help you
decide which word form to use, for example, whether you should use a gerund (researching)
or an infinitive (to research)*

Vocabulary training with the Academic Word List (AWL)

The AWL Highlighter and Gapmaker
https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/highlighter/
This site identifies academic words in the various sub-lists. You can make up vocabulary exercises using your own or others' texts. This site also gives the full list and sub-lists of the AWL.

Print Resources for Academic Writers

Advanced learners' dictionaries and vocabulary

Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English. 2014. Lea, Diana, chief editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Includes writing tutor, reference section, and CD-ROM

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners. Second edition, 2002/2007. Oxford: Macmillan Education. Includes CD-ROM and free online access

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Eighth edition, 2010. A S Hornby. J. Turnbull, Managing Editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Includes CD-ROM.

Building Academic Vocabulary. 2002. Lawrence J. Zweier. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Focus on Vocabulary: Mastering the Academic Word List. 2005. Diane Schmitt and Norbert Schmitt. White Plains: Pearson Education.

Writing for academic purposes

BAILEY, STEPHEN (2017, 5TH EDITION). Academic Writing: A Handbook for
International Students. Oxon, UK & New York: Routledge.
ISBN: 9781138048744
A basic (text) book for all academic writers with exercises to improve language accuracy.

BLESS, ANN & ED HULL (2012, 3RD EDITION). Reader friendly biomedical
articles: How to write them! Alphen aan den Rijn: Van Zuiden
Communications. ISBN 978-90-8523-167-7
This short hands-on guide by two experienced instructors complements my courses well.

BOOTH, WAYNE C., GREGORY G. COLOMB, & JOSEPH M. WILLIAMS (2008, 3RD EDITION).
The Craft of Research. University of Chicago Press.
ISBN (paper) 978-0-226-06566-3
This highly recommended classic provides a practical guide to mastering the art of research and contains a wealth of compassionate, competent advice for researchers.

CAPLAN, NIGEL A. (2012). Grammar Choices for Graduate and Professional Writers.
University of Michigan Press. ISBN 978-0-472-03501-4.
This book helps writers make intelligent choices about grammatically acceptable forms that have different meanings.

CLARK, IRENE (2007). Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the
Conversation. Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13-173533-0
This book provides practical guidance, theoretical understanding, and much insight into the writing process itself to those who are in the process of writing a thesis or dissertation by an acknowledged expert. Amazon.com offers a detailed overview.

CARGIILL MARGRET & PATRICK O'CONNOR (2009). Writing scientific research articles: strategy and practice. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 9781405186193.
Very helpful book designed to help researchers who use English as a first or an additional language. It provides advice ranging from the selection of a suitable target journal to writing strategies for the different sections of a scientific publication, from data-presentation to responding to referee comments.

COGHILL, ANNE M. AND LORRIE R. GARSON (2006). The ACS Style Guide: Effective Communication of Scientific Information. American Chemical Society. ISBN 13:9780841239999.
One of many publications on conventions, style, and guidelines for a specific field, in this case for chemists. Other and perhaps more pertinent style guides are often available online.

FEAK, CHRISTINE B. & JOHN M. SWALES (2009). Telling a Research Story: Writing a Literature Review. (Volume 2 of the English in Today's Research World Series.) Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. ISBN 9780472033362.
Progressing from general to specific issues in the writing of literature reviews, this book covers issues of structure and language use, style, rhetoric, citation, paraphrasing and summarizing.

GLASMAN-DEAL, HILARY (2ND EDITION 2021). Science Research Writing for Native and Non-Native Speakers of English. London: World Scientific Publishing Europe.
ISBN 9781786347848 (paperback)
ISBN 9781786348333 (e-book)
This is an excellent, practical, and self-study guide to how science research writing is rapidly changing and developing. It presents a wealth of conventionalized vocabulary and frequently used phrases for each section of a scientific publication.

JOHNSON, SÖREN (2011, 2014 REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION). Getting It Across: A Guide to Effective Academic Writing. Amsterdam: Techne Press.
ISBN 978-90-8594-038-8.
The author aims at helping non-native writers how to 'fix' writing that does not really 'work.' The book is full of useful insights and examples of real texts that have been improved. Excellent sections on article use and connecting words.

LEBRUN, JEAN-LUC (2007, 3RD REPRINTING). Scientific Writing: A Reader and Writer's Guide. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing. ISBN 139789812701442.
Lebrun, a native French speaker formerly with Apple, has developed a novel approach that invites readers to get to the core of their writing difficulties and solve them creatively.

PYNE, STEPHEN J. (2009). Voice and Vision: A Guide to Writing History and Other Serious Nonfiction. Cambridge, USA and London: Harvard University Press.
ISBN 978-0-674-03330-6
An approach to enliven academic writing and make it more elegant.

SCHIMEL, JOSHUA. Writing Science: How to Write Papers that Get Cited and Proposals That Get Funded. 2011. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199760244 (paperback)
This book, recommended by a participant in ecological and environmental research, focuses on structuring the story of technical papers and proposals.

SKERN, TIM (2009). Writing Scientific English. Wien: facultas wuv (UTB series 3112). ISBN 9783825231125.
This concise workbook is designed to give researchers confidence in writing scientific English. Examples and exercises show how to avoid common errors and how to rephrase and improve (edit) scientific texts.

SWALES, J. & C. FEAK (2012, 3RD EDITION). Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. ISBN 978-0-472-03475-8.
This is probably the most comprehensive book about text strategies. However, it could be difficult to use alone. (2 books: text & commentary).

THOMSON, PAT & BARBARA KAMLER (2013). Writing for Peer Reviewed Journals: Strategies for getting published. London & New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group. ISBN (paperback) 978-0-415-80931-3.
Excellent resource for understanding how a scholar's identity is shaped through the process of writing.

WILLIAMS, JOSEPH M. (2007, 9TH EDITION). Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace. Pearson Education Inc. ISBN 0321479351.
A classic that gives ten principles for writing coherently that may be difficult for less experienced writers to use on their own