

Some dos and don'ts

The text in blue represents direct quotes from students studying 1DV510. These are largely to illustrate what not to do.

1. **You are writing to your peers.** This a short definition of peer: *a person who is equal to another in abilities, qualifications, age, background, and social status.*

Your readers are your fellow students who have shared knowledge and experience. Therefore, **do not state the obvious** e.g.

- because many attackers or we can call them, hackers
- The Internet is a network that enables communication of any computer on the earth.
- Now someone can work remotely, shop online, make online transactions and many other online services.
- The invention of the computer triggered a vast and fast revolution in our life, people are using computers on a large scale
- PCs, smartphones and other devices have become necessary gadgets for people to have.
- The popularity of technology has skyrocketed over the past couple of decades.

2. **Even if your readers are not your peers, still do not state the obvious**

- Through time more computer programming language are developing.
- Software is a convenient way to use internet such as Slack and Facebook.

3. **Superfluous words**

- a) Time-markers which are not needed because we are writing the present; the here and now

- **Nowadays**, no one doubts that the 21st century will be the fastest growing one.
- **Today**, computers are faster than ever before.
- This report will consider **current** assistive...

- b) Qualifiers. Words which are intended to strengthen a noun.

- why is data security **very** important
- what makes a group called 'Aespa' **so** unique?
- the aviation sector has gone through a **sheer** revolution

- c) Repetition

- ... artificial intelligence may reduce the **employment of many jobs,**
- Thus the motivation and ideas for **what became Git came into being.**
- MSA can be a potential **solution to solve** the problem mentioned above.
- face **recognition**, speech **recognition** and text **recognition**

A good way to avoid the last example is to write, face-, speech- and text recognition.

- d) Fillers

- As a matter of fact,
- Everyone knows that...

e) People

- The impact of artificial intelligence on human beings
- It comes to no surprise that humans...
- human beings have limits, are fallible and very vulnerable to their own mistakes. [humans]

4. **And does not exist.** Meaning, you should not start a sentence with *and*. And is a conjunction. It is used to join two parts of a sentence together or before the last item in a list.

5. Some words are *uncountables*

An uncountable is a noun that cannot be made plural or used with *a* or *an*, for example water and bread. Some important ones are:

- information
- research
- advice
- software

Some words also have the same plural form as the singular e.g. aircraft, sheep and crossroads.

6. In English, capital (upper case) letters are used to start a sentence and for proper nouns

- The discipline of computer science has developed into several fields, for instance, information management, Human-computer interaction, and Networking and Communication.
- World or world? Unless part of a name, it is *world*.
- Internet or internet. **YOU CHOOSE**. Either form is valid. American English tends to favour *Internet*, Englishes based on British usually go for *internet*.

7. Abbreviations

The first time that you use an abbreviation, write out the name or term in full and put the abbreviation in brackets e.g. artificial intelligence (AI).

However, if you will not be using name or term again, do not give the abbreviation.

There are only a few exceptions, usually where the name is the abbreviation e.g. BBC, H&M.

8. Science is evidence based. Only make statements that can be proven.

a) Avoid hyperbole (extreme statements).

- The gaming industry makes up a large portion of society and it has taken great interest in the consumerization of such technology.
- The invention of the computer triggered a vast and fast revolution in our life, people are using computers on a large scale
- AI affects everyday life limitlessly

b) The future.

- Thirdly, try to **guess** what will happen to...

In an academic report, the reader should never be guessing. All should be clear.

Guessing is not part of the scientific method. You predict, forecast, speculate, envision, etc.

9. Vagueness

In science and academia precision is the A and O. These two sentences are vague.

- As **some data** have great value, cyber thieves are **quite interested** to get access to these asset, therefore **protection** is required.
- ... artificial intelligence **may** reduce the employment of **many** jobs, [also repetition]

Words to avoid:

- Some, a few, a bit
- quite, rather, sort of, kind of
- many, a lot
- may, might, possibly (unless we are immediately going to explain)

So, be precise. For example, if *most* is intended, then consider giving a statistic. Which of these sounds more scientific?

- most first-year computer science students prefer classes to online teaching
- 59% of first-year computer science students prefer classes to online teaching [1]

10. *It and this and that*

There is something in English called the *existential it*. Where *it* refers to nothing, but we all know what it means e.g.

- It is raining
- "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

It is also used to avoid repetition e.g. Open-source software has one great advantage, *it* can be adapted and improved by anyone.

But it must be completely clear what it refers back to.

- As the number of people using **it** increases, more problems arise.
- An example of **that** would be the bank...
- **This** has motivated me to try to understand

You can't start a sentence with *it* if we don't know what *it* is.

- **It** all started in 1961, when....

Important: Do not use *it* twice in one sentence.

11. Words from the everyday domain that have little place in academia or science

Words to avoid and words to replace them with:

- **get** acquire or become
- **like** such as, for example, e.g. (eg), including, namely
- **but** nonetheless, on the other hand, although, however

12. Writer invisibility

In academic English, the writer does not exist or at least there should be no sign of their existence. This image is maintained so as to maintain detachment from the work. In other words to be objective. Thus the writer is invisible.

- This has motivated **me** to try to understand
- **I** will make an educated guess as to...
- To achieve this goal, **we** will look at an overview of Git
- Finally, **the author** is willing to find out...

This should not be a strange concept. Novels and other works of fiction often use a *third person omniscient narrator*. When an author writes in third person omniscient, the audience is able to know and see everything.

13. Do not address the reader

- How do **you** protect **yourself** from phishing attacks?

Suggestion: How do individuals protect themselves from phishing attacks?

14. Forget about translation programmes / apps

Machine translation might be OK for a rough translation of a text message or the description of an article on eBay. But not for academic writing. Could poor translation explain these words?

- What are the benefits and **backrows** of...
- What are the **costumer's** rights and responsibilities?

Summary

In conclusion, I do not wish to be invisible. I am addressing you, the reader, directly. And, for effect, I am using repetition*.

You need to make your language less social media and more formal, more scientific and more academic**.

*You have to know and understand the rules of English before you can break them. **In these sentences, of course, I am using the spoken word, written down, rather than academic English.