

Parallelism ✓

Maintain the same structure & form for each item in a list:
noun and noun; phrase, phrase, and phrase.

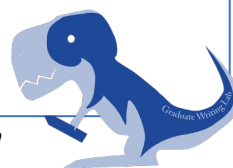
- *efficient, reliable & affordable*
- *arguing rather than working*

See chompchomp.com for practice exercises

Related Resources

- Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)
 - <https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>
 - See the GWL resources page for tutorials
- AntConc
 - Free software for finding patterns in writing
 - See collab for slides or attend a workshop
- Ozdic.com
 - Collocation dictionary
 - See common grammatical structures for words and related meaning and words that go together
- Academic Phrasebank
 - <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>
Common phrases by function from UK dissertations
- Forvo.com
 - Pronunciation dictionary for technical terms

Word Choice in Academic Writing Cheat Sheet



Created by Kelly J Cunningham for the UVA Engineering Graduate Writing Lab

Avoid

Clichés



- Overused, imprecise
- Comments may say 'too general'
 - Ex. *In this day & age; in the current climate; little did I know; since the beginning of time*

Outdated or archaic words



- No longer in common use
- May be labelled as archaic, Old English, obsolete
 - Ex. *wither (wherever), circumjacent, behold, heretofore, howbeit*

Informal, imprecise or assuming wording



- More common in conversation and informal contexts
 - Ex. *suddenly, actually*
- Can alienate a reader
 - Ex. *clearly, obviously,*

Useful Resource

- Gastel & Day *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*, 8th edition
Appendix 2: Words & Expressions to Avoid

Less formal (more common in conversation)	More academic (more common in academic & research writing)
More words	More concise
More clauses	More phrases
Phrasal verbs Ex. bring up, find out, leave out, look into	Single word verbs Ex. mention/discuss, discover, omit, investigate
Got passives Ex. got damaged	Standard passives Ex. were damaged
General terms Ex. great, nice	Specific precise terms & numbers Ex. Increased by 50%

Negatives

Instead of 2 word negatives	Try single word negatives
<p>Not ... any <i>The analysis did <u>not</u> yield <u>any</u> results.</i></p>	<p>No <i>The analysis yielded <u>no</u> results.</i></p>
<p>Not much <i>The agency did <u>not</u> allocate <u>much</u> funding for the program.</i></p>	<p>Little <i>The agency allocated <u>little</u> funding for the program.</i></p>
<p>Not many <i>This problem does <u>not</u> have <u>many</u> sustainable solutions.</i></p>	<p>Few <i>This problem has <u>few</u> sustainable solutions.</i></p>

From Swales, John M., and C. B. Feak. Academic Writing for Graduate Students, 3rd edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 2012, p. 22.

Use the table to keep your own list of replacement words & phrases you can use in your writing

[illegible]