

【Announcement for English Writing Seminar PSJ-2014】

The two topics for this year's English Writing Seminar are the same as last year's, but the examples that we will discuss are new. Read on to learn about the topics and format of the seminars. The seminars are suitable for everyone at any stage of their career. Encourage your students to attend, then you come also. We especially need experienced researchers to discuss research questions—in Japanese and English—with those less experienced.

Please note: You are welcome to come to any session when you can and remain as long as you are able or return later.

1. Indefinite and Definite Articles (A, An, The)

Learn what questions to ask to decide which article, if any, to use; you will receive a flow chart of questions to lead you to the best choice. Using many examples from real manuscripts, we will find each noun in each sentence and examine in detail how each article affects the meaning of the sentence. The examples will be different than those discussed in previous seminars, so attend the seminar again.

2. Steps to Writing a Good Scientific Manuscript

First, we will briefly go over individual steps in an approach to manuscript writing that will reduce the time and pain involved in organizing and constructing your paper—from your first experiment to deciding when and where to publish. Remember, science is based on logic; thus, your scientific manuscript is also based on logic.

Then we will talk about your research question: the fundamental beginning of a scientific paper. We will be concerned with your science here; you will think about and refine your actual language later. In the seminar, we will deal only with science and ideas... previous work in the field (yours and others), the logic behind the experimental work, the logic leading to your conclusions.

So, you, the seminar participants, will supply the written text for our discussion. Answer the following questions (1–4) for one experiment, a group of experiments, or a future or in-progress manuscript. You can first write the answers in Japanese if you wish, but then you must write the answers in English. Send your written answers to me, in English please in a Word file (.doc) at behazen@gmail.com preferably at least 1 week before the seminar, but you may e-mail the file to me up to 24 h before the seminar or bring it on a memory stick 20–30 min before the seminar starts.

The questions:

1. What is your research question? (OR: what is your overall hypothesis, that is, the falsifiable or null hypothesis)

What is the premise of your study or research problem Write two or three sentences that explain background information that we need to know to understand why you are doing your research.

2. What method or approach have you taken to answer your research question?

3. What are your key results? If you can or want, you may prepare a table and/or figure to illustrate the results.

4. What are your main conclusions? What is the significance of your results? What work needs to be done next?

You may come to the seminar without answering these questions, but I highly recommend that you try this exercise. Answer as many questions as you can.

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