

Can you understand this?

I really not need writing class because since time I come to United State all my friend speak language. Until now everyone understand me and I dont' need study language.

I don't know Vietnam language. I speak only English. I have no communication problem with my friend in dorm. My English teacher in high school key person to teach me.



What about this?

My teacher explained to me how important the book was for the student and persuaded me read many book. I get A in English through out high school and I never take ESL. I agree that some student need class but you has not made correct decision put me in English class. Please do not makes me lose the face. I have confident in English.



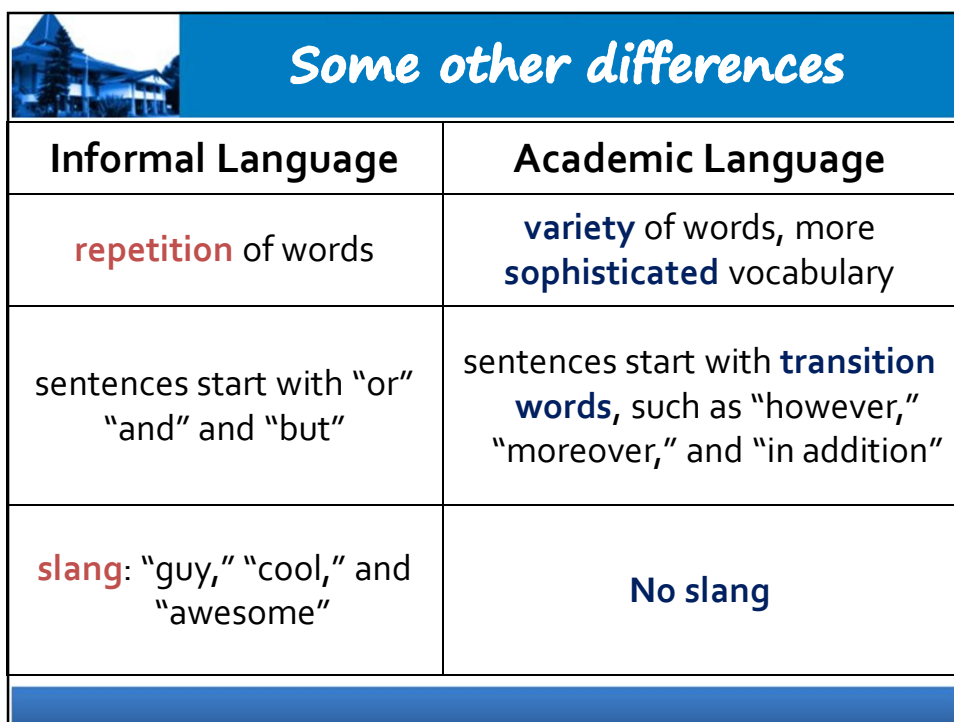
- When using social, or informal, English in daily conversation, it's possible to communicate by using **slang** and **without a grammatically correct way**
- You can be understood without using:
 - articles
 - prepositions
 - sophisticated vocabulary
 - pronoun reference

Note: Read more about the [difference between social and academic language](#) at Colorín Colorado.




Academic Language

Academic language is more **formal** and has more **specific vocabulary** than everyday language. It is also much **less common**.




Some other differences	
Informal Language	Academic Language
repetition of words	variety of words, more sophisticated vocabulary
sentences start with "or" "and" and "but"	sentences start with transition words , such as "however," "moreover," and "in addition"
slang : "guy," "cool," and "awesome"	No slang



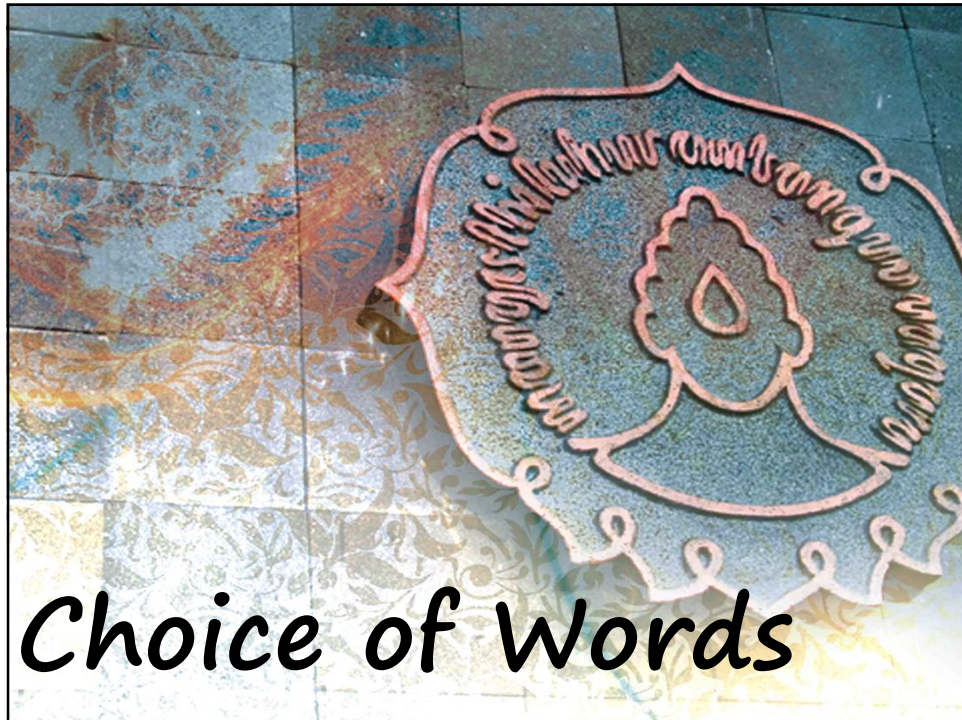
Common 'MISTAKES' to Avoid


- Chatty
- Colloquial
- Informal
- Obscure
- Dense



4 Important Aspects


- Choice of Words
- Grammar
- Signposting
- Hedging



 **Rule - 1: Avoid Idiom or Colloquialism**

Her paper made a **tremendous** contribution to the field.


Her paper made a **major** contribution to the field.



Rule – 1: Avoid Idiom or Colloquialism

The community managed to **scratch a living** from the poor soil. **IDIOM**


The community managed to **survive** by farming the poor soil.



Rule – 1: Avoid Idiom or Colloquialism

The settlers **became** ill after drinking polluted water.

The settlers **got** ill after drinking polluted water. **Less Academic**




Rule - 1: Avoid Idiom or Colloquialism

The study participants reported that they **got better** after the first course of treatment.

Less Academic

The study participants reported that their health **improved** after the first course of treatment.




Rule -2: Avoid Double Verbs

Doris Lessing **got** the Nobel Prize in 2007.

Less Academic

Doris Lessing **was awarded** the Nobel Prize in 2007




Rule -2: Avoid Double Verbs

The proposal for regional representation was **turned down**.

Less Academic

The proposal for regional representation was **rejected**.




Rule -2: Avoid Double Verbs

Scientists **investigating** the production of biofuels using non-food crops.

Scientists are **looking into** the production of biofuels using non-food crops.

Less Academic



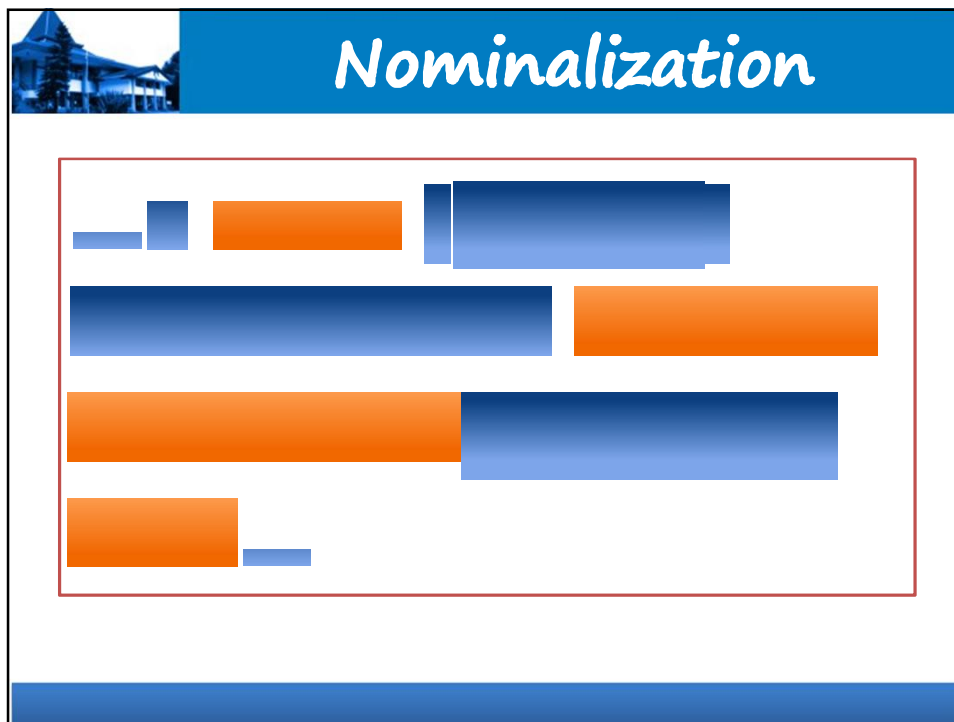
Rule -2: Avoid Double Verbs

Biofuels based on non-grain crops have the potential to **reduce** food prices.

Biofuels based on non-grain crops have the potential to **bring** food prices **down**.

Less Academic






Nominalization

The government banned smoking in public places in 2007. Since then, fewer people have been admitted to hospital for smoking-related diseases.

Less Academic


The ban on smoking in public places in 2007 has led to a fall in hospital admissions for smoking-related diseases.



Use Modifiers

The unexpected **decline** in species that had previously thrived in the area was attributed to a sharp **rise** in temperature.


Use Pre- and Post Modifiers



Avoid Negative Forms

- There isn't any evidence in support of this claim.
- The new study does not support the initial findings
- There isn't much research on this topic.
- There is **no** evidence in support of this claim.
- The new study supports **few** of the initial findings.
- There is **little** research on this topic.


Not Recommended



Avoid using 'you'.

Neither qualitative interviews nor focus groups are likely to **give you** easily quantifiable, factual or objective data.

Neither qualitative interviews nor focus groups are likely to **provide** easily quantifiable, factual or objective data.




Avoid using 'you'.

As **you can see** from the data, two-thirds of respondents are satisfied with the current provision.

As **can be seen** from the data, two-thirds of respondents are satisfied with the current provision.


The data **show that** two-thirds of respondents are satisfied with the current provision.






Use Signpost

- The aim of this study is to
- The purpose of this thesis is to....
- This essay argues that
- The main questions addressed in this paper are
- This essay critically examines....




- The above discussion raises some interesting questions.
- This paper begins by It will then go on to Finally,
- This chapter reviews the literature
- In conclusion,



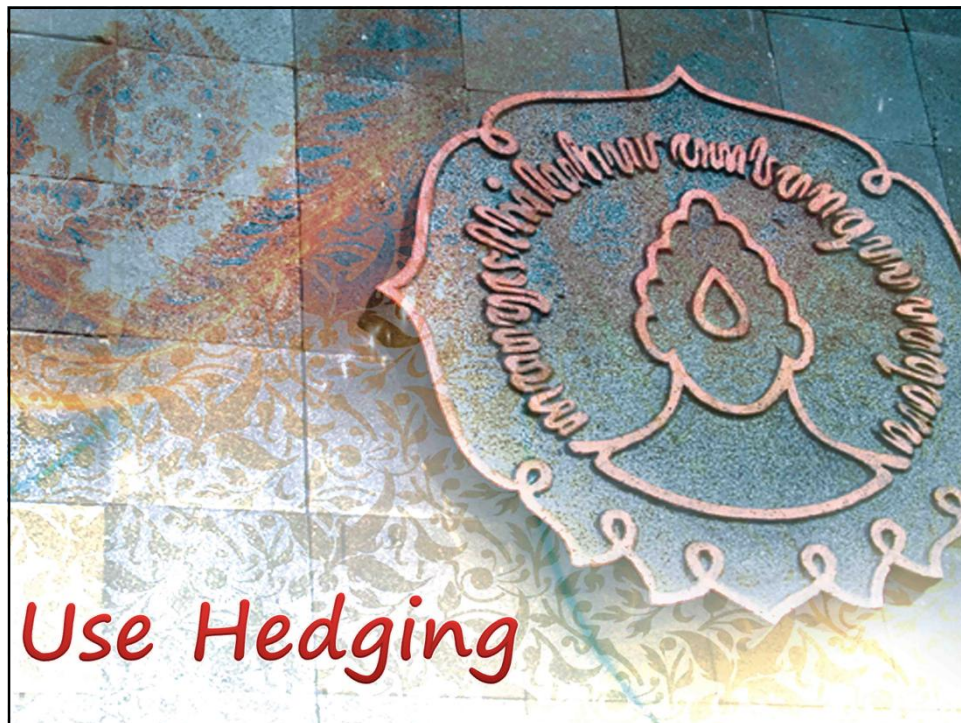
Some more examples


- **Listing:**
first(ly), ... / second(ly), ... / finally, ... /
- **Indicating addition or similarity:**
also, ... / besides, ... / in addition, ... /
furthermore, ... / as well / similarly, ...
- **Indicating contrast:**
however, ... / nevertheless, ... / on the
other hand, ... /



Some more examples

- **Giving a reason:**
for this reason, ... / because ... / because of ... / due to
...
- **Indicating result:**
therefore, ... / thus, ... / as a result, ... / consequently,
...
- **Reformulating an idea:**
in other words, ... / to put it simply, ... / that is ...
- **Exemplifying:**
for example, ... / for instance, ... / to exemplify, ...





Hedging

- Water shortages trigger conflict between nations.
- Water shortages **may** trigger conflict between nations.




Hedging

- The fire was **probably** caused by a fault in the engine temperature gauge.
- The fire **could** have been caused by a fault in the engine temperature gauge.



Hedging Tools

- **Modal auxiliary verbs:**
can, could, may, might, should, would
- **Other modal verbs:**
appear, look, seem, tend



Hedging Tools

- **Probability adjectives:**
likely, possible, probable, unlikely
- **Probability adverbs:**
perhaps, possibly, probably, presumably
- **Frequency adverbs:**
generally, occasionally, often, seldom, usually



Sources

- <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/>
- <http://www.colorincolorado.org/>