

NB: If you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is (hopefully) because you have expressed a wish to do so. If this is not the case, and/or you do not wish to receive it in future – *please let us know!*

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Dear friends

Well, sometimes you fall flat on your face! Trying to get Danes to come to a course on *Business English Skills* on Saturday mornings (see last two issues) was clearly a mistake. Never mind. We will try again on a normal weekday. Later. We have also had a problem interesting people in the office space in Business House. But everybody thinks it's a really good idea to try to collect language and communication freelancers under the same roof, so we'll keep trying on that one.

Office space

English support still has an option on some 50 square metres of office space in Business House. So if you are interested in an office, or sharing an office, at an address in the heart of Roskilde, please get in touch as soon as possible!

The professor did *not* get his wine

Over the last three issues we have been trying to find *anyone* who knows of even *one single solitary grammar book, dictionary or style guide* published in the English-speaking world that says *mr* or *mrs* is even possible, never mind normal.

This is because I had promised a certain professor, who will remain nameless, a bottle of wine if he could find one independent source for his surprising claim (in a book used for teaching English at university level, no less) that *Mr* and *Mrs* can also be written with small letters.

He never did respond to my challenge. Indeed, he seems to have taken umbrage at being put on the spot. So I thought I might mollify him by advertising for help. Alas, no one has been able to be of any assistance.

So he doesn't get the wine. Still, I might be able to think of a use for it ... ☺



How to write a scientific paper

English support has just published a booklet for people who want to publish in English science journals, but who are not native speakers.

Most of the material already available on this subject is aimed at English speakers. What is new about this booklet is the way it makes the disciplines of the internationally recognised "IMRAD"* approach to writing scientific articles easily accessible for non-native speakers as well. Typical grammar and spelling pitfalls are pointed out and its 36 pages also include useful tips on style.

The new booklet is already in use as teaching material on a course for lecturers and PhD students at the Department of Civil Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark.

Clean and clear

These two words often confused. The adjective *clean* means without dirt and the verb *to clean* means to remove dirt.

The fundamental idea in the adjective *clear*, however, is not *cleanness* but *emptiness*. A clear sky is empty of cloud; a clear skin has no blemishes; a clear glass is transparent; and a clear desk has no papers on it. Notice the emptiness is always positive.

Similarly the verb *to clear* means to create a positive kind of emptiness. Thus I might clear my desk (finish my outstanding work), clear away (after dinner), or clear up (meaning tidy up or put things in order). And the weather might clear up too (brighten up). In each case the focus is not on dirt, but other things that might be in the way in the situation. Even telling someone to “clear off” can be seen as aimed at a positive kind of emptiness – their absence!

Appreciate if

You cannot say “*appreciate if*”. The expression normally being aimed at here is something like: “*I would appreciate it if you would*”. The little word *it* is unstressed, but it must be there. In this respect the word *appreciate* is a little like the words *inform* and *tell* (see *News & Tips* No.1). You must appreciate *something*, just as you must inform or tell *someone*.

Within

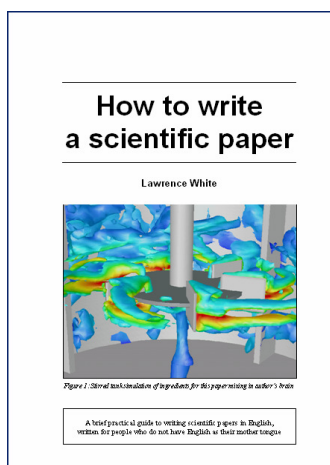
Here is a word that is much overused in Denmark. If something is *within* something, it is inside it or surrounded by it. When talking about location, *inside* is more common, but when we talk about any kind of limits (including lengths of time) *within* is the most usual.

But English speakers do not speak of being *within* a trade or profession: instead, they use *in*.

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Abstract

English is the main language for international science publication, but not the native language of the majority of scientists. Writing well in a foreign language can be difficult. Some good existing material on how to write scientific papers was therefore blended with empirical data from English teaching pre-stored in the brain of a professional linguist and educator. This mixture was fermented at temperatures in the range of 35–40°C over a period of 28 days, after which essentials were extracted. The result is a practical manual for people who wish to publish in English but are not native-speakers. Conclusion: *Read on!*

Keywords

Writing – English – Science – Journal – Articles

You can order the booklet from the web site.

Best wishes
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